

most important causes of social or material change. Humans should not be seen as just rational beings at their core, but as relational ones, with extended minds and social imaginative cognition.

A cornerstone in this context is the 'Social Brain Hypothesis', which serves to navigate and understand the complexities of the interdependence between social, ecological and biological factors. It also provides justification for the focus on human imagination as the central theme, because it is linked to the development of socially constructed communication, symbols and metaphors, which seems to have driven the increase in hominin brain power over millions of years (rather than the mastering of environmental challenges alone). This book stands as part of a journey for Gamble that started with his seminal volume *The Palaeolithic settlement of Europe* (1986), which systematically linked archaeological evidence with the availability of resources over more than 500 000 years of human occupation in Europe. Since then Gamble has expanded his theoretical, interpretative and methodological toolkit and has explored the challenging aspects of 'society' (*The Palaeolithic societies of Europe*, 1999) and 'identity' (*Origins and revolutions*, 2007) through Palaeolithic remains. In the current volume, he further integrates all of these aspects and this overall synthesis is now held together by the overarching theme of 'human imagination'. One might argue that this latter concept is strangely underdeveloped in the current volume, but I see it more as a metaphor itself for Gamble's focus on human social cognition and thought as the driving force of human evolution, history and the colonisation of the world: "[t]he brain remains central to human history" (p. 321). Consequently, the deep human past should not be written as a series of biological adaptations to changing environmental conditions, but as dialectic between the narratives of a finite Earth and infinite imagination, between deep and shallow history.

Can a book be more than the sum of its parts? Specialists from different parts of the world and different professions will surely find numerous individual issues to debate and criticise. None of this changes the fact that we desperately need books like *Settling the Earth* and we need researchers like Clive Gamble who can write about the deep human past in a way that integrates archaeological evidence and interpretation so elegantly and with so much enthusiasm. This is a massive contribution to the understanding of the human past. It is impossible to

properly assess it in a few words. It is a bold attempt to understand the structures of 10 million years of global human history; it is a textbook for students and professionals interested in the deep human past; it is an attempt to view human history beyond the sciences and the humanities; it is a book that provides a dazzling wealth of ideas, hypotheses and explanations, which are not presented as solid facts but rather are intended to be tested, revised and reformulated. It is unquestionable that this book is a milestone on our journey to improve our understanding of the human past and present.

## References

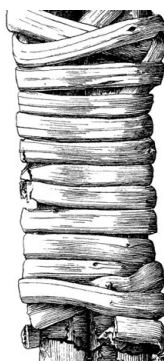
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MARTIN PORR

Archaeology/Centre for Rock Art Research +  
 Management, University of Western Australia  
 (Email: martin.porr@uwa.edu.au)

SØREN H. ANDERSEN. *Tybrind Vig: submerged Mesolithic settlements in Denmark*. 527 pages, numerous colour and b&w illustrations. 2013. Højbjerg: Jutland Archaeological Society, Moesgård Museum; 978-87-88415-78-0 hardback DKK399.95.

Who would have imagined that a competition for scuba divers organised by a local magazine would have



led to the discovery of one of the most important and well-researched submerged Mesolithic sites in Europe? When Tybrind Vig was first discovered by amateur divers off the Danish coast in 1957, no-one was really aware of the immense potential of the site, and the incredible repercussions

it would have (and still has) on the development of archaeology in general, and on Mesolithic studies in particular. Although Tybrind Vig was first identified

in 1957, it was not until the mid-1970s that the late Mesolithic settlement (belonging to the Ertebølle culture *c.* 5300–4000 BC), as we know it today, was properly located by amateur archaeologist Hans Dal. After a first trial excavation in 1978, the site (mainly settlement B) was fully excavated with a series of annual campaigns that lasted until 1987. Officially, Tybrind Vig consists of four settlements, A, B, C and D, though only two, A and B, are regarded as having *in situ* archaeological evidence—‘settlements’ C and D are, in fact, scattered finds collected on the seabed. Therefore, most of what we know today about the site comes from the thoroughly excavated settlement B, and it is indeed on that settlement that the book under review is mainly based.

The volume has been cleverly divided into two parts: Part 1 provides a thorough account of the site, including its cultural and environmental contexts, archaeological finds, excavation techniques and the various scientific analyses deployed during the project; Part 2 presents in-depth, thematic papers written by a number of scholars involved with the Tybrind Vig project. Part 1 is itself sub-divided into eight chapters, each covering a specific topic and ordered in a way that gives the reader a sense of chronology unfolding step by step to present a captivating story. Chapter 1, for instance, provides a meticulous description of the site’s discovery, environment, excavation, stratigraphy and dating. Chapters 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively describe in minute detail the stone, wooden, bone/antler and ceramic artefacts. Chapter 6, thanks to the remarkable level of preservation of plant, food and other organic remains (also detailed in Chapter 3), provides a thorough account of Tybrind Vig’s economy, touching upon subsistence strategies and seasonal food procurement. Chapter 7 places the site into broader cultural and geographical context, taking into account other Ertebølle settlements within the ‘Little Belt’ (the strait between the Jutland Peninsula and the island of Funen) and further afield across Funen as a whole. A useful summary of the conclusions and future research perspectives are presented in Chapter 8.

A real plus of Part 1 (and, indeed, of the entire volume) is the meticulous description of the various artefacts. In particular, we should compliment the author for the comprehensive accounts of some of the most iconic finds at Tybrind Vig: the canoe paddles (pp. 169–84), especially the one with remarkable decorative patterns, and the dug-outs (pp. 185–203).

Part 2, as previously mentioned, consists of a collection of thematic papers, which perfectly complement the rather more descriptive and less technical Part 1. For instance, experts in geological aspects of the site may profit from Strand Petersen’s paper, whereas those interested in wooden artefacts would certainly find the contributions by Malmros and Lambert Johansen very interesting. There are also in-depth discussions on bone artefacts (Nielsen), osteological analyses (both animal and human; Trolle), and even on hunting strategies (Bratlund). Textiles (also briefly mentioned in Chapter 3) are discussed in detail by Bender Jørgensen, with useful specialist appendices (A, B and C) by Krber-Grohne, Rørdam and Lorentzen. Finally, Lund Rasmussen and Christensen’s papers will be greatly appreciated by chronology/dating aficionados. It should be pointed out that the majority of the aforementioned contributions were written in the 1990s—nevertheless, if the reader is able to make allowances to take into account the most recent developments in the discipline, they remain very useful.

An important point to be stressed, regarding the volume as a whole, is that it is not simply a thoroughly written account of a single archaeological site, but also summarises the historical and technical development of archaeological research, especially in relation to Mesolithic studies and wetland/underwater archaeology. One need not be a specialist in these two fields to appreciate the enormous contribution that the site has brought to the archaeological discipline in the past 40 or so years. The site has made us realise that the Mesolithic period is not only about microliths and seasonal hunting camps, but that it is also an exceptionally well-developed period of our prehistory with its own complex ways of life and a remarkably developed technology. Equally, one has to appreciate the enormous effort and perseverance of the project’s underwater archaeologists who perfected the various excavation techniques in order to retrieve those precious well-preserved artefacts.

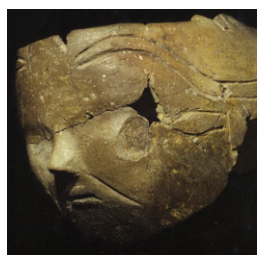
The volume leaves no stone unturned. Not only is it a treasure-trove for scholars working on multi-disciplinary research but also, in a way, it is a manual on diplomacy and collaboration—two virtues that are crucial for the successful completion of any archaeological project (see, in particular, Chapter 1 and Dal’s contribution). Even the harshest reviewer may find it difficult to be critical of this book. The author himself, however, points out and apologises

for one particular issue: the substantial delay in the publication of this volume. Unforeseen situations frequently set back even the best archaeological plans, but when the final results are as good as this book, we can forgive our colleague Søren Andersen.

FRANCESCO MENOTTI  
IPAS, Basel University, Switzerland  
(Email: francesco.menotti@unibas.ch)

IAN HODDER (ed.). *Substantive technologies at Çatalhöyük: reports from the 2000–2008 seasons* (Çatalhöyük Research Project series 9; BIAA Monograph 48; Monumenta Archaeologica 31). xxix+507 pages, 459 b&w illustrations, 127 tables, CD. 2013. London: British Institute at Ankara; Los Angeles (CA): Cotsen Institute of Archaeology; 978-1-898249-31-3 hardback \$89.

The site of Çatalhöyük in central Turkey has long occupied an important place in archaeological



reconstructions of early village life and the transition to agriculture in the Near East. James Mellaart's excavations in the 1960s also captured the public imagination, especially the art

found in the densely packed houses. Three-dimensional bulls' heads jutting out of the walls, murals of vultures, leopards and other animals, and figurines of substantial women suggested that life in the Neolithic was not all about the practicalities of adjusting to a settled existence and an economy based on farming rather than foraging.

The Çatalhöyük Research Project, directed by Ian Hodder, began in 1993 and continues to the present day. Its excavations have concentrated on the Neolithic East Mound (7400–6000 BC) and the Chalcolithic West Mound, which dates to the first half of the sixth millennium BC. Although Mellaart's findings and views have been modified, rectified or replaced as new data have accumulated and new theoretical perspectives have been applied, the fascination with the role of visual imagery and symbolism in the lives of Çatalhöyük's inhabitants continues to be an important element in the interpretation of the archaeological results. This focus is reflected in the questions that underlie the current project's research

agenda. These questions centre on the development of religious beliefs and the role of religion in structuring social relations and interactions, both within the village and across the region more broadly.

The present volume is one in a series of reports on the excavations, data analyses and interpretations of the third phase of the project (2000–2012). *Substantive technologies* is devoted to the presentation of “new data on the ways in which humans became increasingly engaged in their geographical context such that ‘things’ came to play an active force in their lives” (p. 1). The overall goal of the studies presented in the volume is to contribute to the study of this developing relationship through the in-depth analysis of “artifacts and materials, their extraction, production, distribution, and deposition” (p. 13).

The volume's 21 chapters are divided into three parts: ‘Introduction’ (Chapters 1–2), ‘A settlement of clay’ (Chapters 3–15) and ‘Demanding technologies’ (Chapters 16–21). They deal primarily with materials excavated from three areas of the Neolithic East Mound: the South Area, the 4040 Area and the IST Area. A hallmark of the Çatalhöyük Research Project has been its extensive use of a wide range of analytical techniques, and this volume is no exception.

Chapter 1 presents an overview by project director Ian Hodder of the site in its regional and chronological context as well as the project's current understanding of Çatalhöyük society and settlement. Although brief, Hodder provides extensive referencing to other detailed publications. The second chapter looks at the spatial and chronological distribution of the artefacts and ecofacts found in the heavy fraction from the flotation samples; this chapter also provides an alternative perspective to the more specialised studies in the subsequent chapters which take a more traditional approach by focusing on one category of artefact or material at a time (e.g. figurines, pottery vessels, obsidian).

The bulk of the volume is devoted to the analysis of clay and the myriad ways that Çatalhöyük residents made use of this material. Clay sources are described in Chapter 3. Five chapters (4–8) examine clay architecture from construction to destruction, also noting the use of other materials such as plaster and wood. Chapters 9–11 discuss Neolithic pottery vessels; the first of these covers wares and forms, and their distribution. Chapter 10 uses petrography to provide further insight into pottery production; Chapter 11 analyses lipid residues. Other uses of